

ABSOLUTE RATING: Unsatisfactory

IMPROVEMENT RATING: Unsatisfactory

Number of Elementary schools with students like ours: 84.

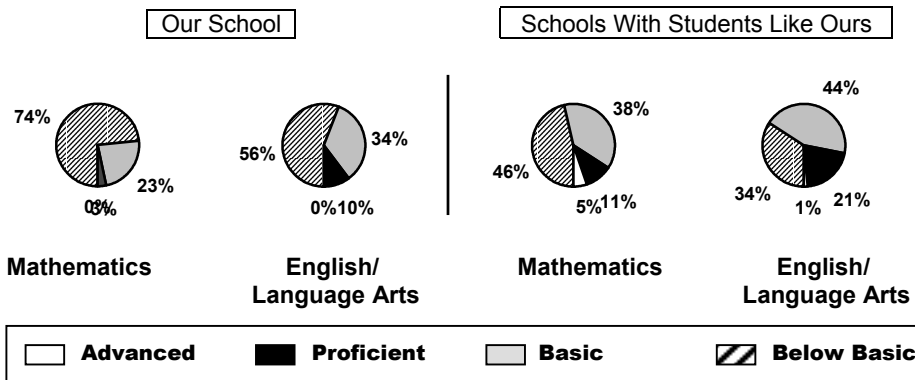
The absolute ratings for those schools ranged from unsatisfactory to good. For improvement ratings, the range was from unsatisfactory to excellent.

RATINGS OVER A 4-YEAR PERIOD



(Definitions of School Rating Terms on Page 4)

PALMETTO ACHIEVEMENT CHALLENGE TESTS (PACT) RESULTS



DEFINITIONS OF CRITICAL TERMS:

- Advanced** – Student performance exceeded expectations.
- Proficient** – Student performance met expectations.
- Basic** – Student performance met minimum performance expectations.
- Below Basic** – Student performance did not meet minimum performance expectations.

Science scores are to be reported on the 2004 School Report Card. Social studies scores are to be reported on the 2005 School Report Card.

PERCENT OF STUDENTS SCORING BASIC OR ABOVE ON THE PACT				
Student Group	English/ Language Arts	Math	Science	Social Studies
All students (n=233)	44.2	26.6	N/A	N/A
Students with disabilities other than Speech (n=5)	N/A	N/A		
Students without disabilities (n=224)	45.1	27.3		
Gender				
Male (n=112)	39.3	22.8		
Female (n=115)	51.3	30.8		
Ethnic Group				
African American (n=176)	38.1	22.9		
Hispanic (n=5)	N/A	N/A		
White (n=47)	68.1	38.3		
Other (n=1)	N/A	N/A		
Lunch Status Group				
Free/reduced-price Lunch (n=163)	41.7	25.5		
Pay for lunch (n=43)	65.1	35.6		

SCHOOL PROFILE

INDICATORS OF SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

	Our School	Change From Last Year	Schools with Students like ours	Median Elementary School
SCHOOL				
• Dollars spent per student	\$5,687	N/A	\$5,636	\$5,347
• Prime instructional time	85.7%	Down from 88.8%	89.4%	90.2%
• Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	18.5 to 1	N/A	17.4 to 1	18.7 to 1
STUDENTS (n=479)				
• Attendance Rate	95.3%	Down from 95.5%	96.1%	96.2%
• Students with disabilities other than speech taking PACT (ELA) off grade level	8.3%	N/A	6.7%	4.1%
• Students with disabilities other than speech taking PACT (math) off grade level	7.8%	N/A	4.4%	3.1%
• First graders who attended full day kindergarten	97.6%	N/A	97.2%	96.3%
• Meeting grade 1 and 2 readiness standards	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
• Retention rate	1.5%	N/A	5%	3.6%
TEACHERS (n=39)				
• Professional Development days per teacher	9.4 Days	Up from 9	7.9 Days	7.6 days
• Attendance Rate	92.2%	Down from 95.4%	94.8%	95.1%
• Teachers with advanced degrees	48.7%	Up from 42.9%	43.6%	47.7%
• Continuing contract teachers	71.8%	Up from 55.2%	80%	83.8%
• Teachers with out-of-field permits	0%	Down from 3.4%	0%	0.0%
• Teachers returning from the previous school year	N/A	N/A	85.7%	87.2%
• Average teacher salary	\$36,552	Up 7.1%	\$36,453	\$37,520

SCHOOL FACTS

	Our School	Change From Last Year	Schools with Students like ours	Median Elementary School
SCHOOL				
• Percentage of expenditures spent on teacher salaries	59.9%	N/A	65.4%	65.3%
• Principal's years at the school	2	N/A	3	4.0
• Parents attending conferences	77.5%	N/A	87.6%	95.6%
• Opportunities in the arts	Good	N/A	Good	Good
STUDENTS				
• On academic plans	N/A	N/A	54.5%	43.1%
• On academic probation	N/A	N/A	0%	0.0%
• Older than usual for grade	1.5%	Up from 1.1%	2%	1.1%
• Suspended or expelled	32	N/A	1	1
• Gifted and talented	5.4%	Down from 8.1%	6.9%	11.5%
• With disabilities other than speech	8%	Up from 5.5%	8.4%	8.4%



PRINCIPAL'S / SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL REPORT

WBES opened its doors 2 years ago and has made tremendous strides in helping all children reach their greatest potential. We are faced with the challenge of a large percentage of our children coming to us performing significantly below their expected grade level. About 90% of our families are challenged with socio-economic issues as well. We have developed initiatives designed to meet these challenges.

Our beautiful facilities allow us to utilize our natural environment for learning and to benefit from the very progressive technology hardware and software now in our school. Our staff continues to integrate technology in all aspects of the school environment.

Our curriculum has been modified to place a **STRONG** focus on reading, writing and math. Many other academic areas are integrated through our reading and math programs. In addition, elements often found in an elementary school have been removed for 3 years while we maximize the time we can provide instruction to our children in these areas. Also, many classes are now multi-age and many teachers loop with their students to the next grade.

WBES is on a year-round calendar. This allows us the chance to bring our students in for additional days of learning. During the 2000-01 school year 80% of our students returned for an additional 20 days of instruction. This calendar also allows our students to maintain the knowledge gained by having shorter breaks between sessions.

Our staff has received staff development in improving our student's social skills and behavior. Thus, our discipline referrals to the office have decreased from 368 referrals in the 99-00 year to 162 referrals in the 00-01 school year.

As a new school, gaining parent involvement for our School Improvement Council and Parent/Teacher Organization has been a challenge. During the 01-02 school year our goal is to increase parental involvement.

WBES made significant gains with the students going into Grade 1. During the 99-00 school year 79% of our children went to Grade 1 on grade level. For the 00-01 year that increased to 93%!

With our focus on literacy our PACT scores for the 00-01 school year increased 8 - 15 points for students in grades 3,4 and 5. We expect this to continue to improve for reading and for math as well, as our math program becomes more hands-on and focused on problem-solving.

WBES continues to face many challenges, but with the dedication of the staff and the involvement of the community we will soon have every child on grade level or better!

EVALUATIONS BY TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

Percent	Teachers	Students	Parents
Satisfied with learning environment	96.4	86.7	(Avail. 2002)
Satisfied with social and physical environment	96.4	91.3	
Satisfied with home-school relations	71.4	92.1	

DEFINITIONS OF SCHOOL RATING TERMS

Excellent – School performance substantially exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

Good – School performance exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

Average – School performance meets the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

Below Average – School is in jeopardy of not meeting the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

Unsatisfactory – School performance fails to meet the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

Whale Branch Elementary
15 Stuart Point Road
Seabrook, SC 29940

Grades PK-5 Elementary School

Enrollment: 479 Students

Principal

Mr. Charles Henderson 843-466-1000

Superintendent

Herman K. Gaither 843-322-2300

Board Chair

Earl Campbell 843-846-4531



THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Annual School
Report Card

2001

School Grade:
Unsatisfactory



South Carolina Performance Goal:

By 2010, South Carolina's student achievement will be ranked in the top half of the states nationally. To achieve this goal, we must become one of the five fastest improving systems in the country.

For more information, visit our website at
www.myschools.com